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Regional Agricultural Development Program- South

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ACRONYMS

ABISC	Ahmad Baryali Improved Seeds Company
ADA	Afghan Development Association
ATAR	Afghanistan Trade and Revenue
CBCMPII	Capacity Building and Change Management Program II
CDC	Community Development Council
CHA	Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
DAP	Diammonium Phosphate
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
DCPC	Dehrawood Chemical Providing Company
DDA	District Development Assembly
DDAIL	District Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
DOWA	Department of Women's Affairs
EEU	Enabling Environment Unit
FEG	Farmer Extension Group
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
HVC	High Value Crop
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
KFFA	Kandahar Fresh Fruit Association
KFZ	Kandahar Food Zone
KIP	Key Implementing Partner
LRHHP	Large Ruminant Herd Health Package
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PICS	Purdue Improved Crop Storage
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PPU	Productivity and Production Unit
PSA	Public Short Announcement
RADP-S	Regional Agricultural Development Program-South

RADP-W	Regional Agricultural Development Program-West
RFP	Request for Proposal
SRHHP	Small Ruminant Herd Health Package
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCFU	Value Chain Facilitation Unit
VCU	Value Chain Unit
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
VTSC	Veterinary Training and Support Center

Cover Photo: A RADP-S Lead Farmer in Tirin Kot, Uruzgan harvests wheat.

1. Project Overview

The purpose of the Regional Agricultural Development Program-South (RADP-S) is to improve food and economic security for rural Afghans in the provinces of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan. To accomplish this goal, RADP-S focuses on improving the productivity and profitability of the wheat, high value crops, and livestock value chains, while addressing policy, legal and regulatory constraints affecting value chain development. This agricultural development program supports the consolidation of licit economies to fuel sustainable long term economic growth, including providing alternatives to poppy cultivation.

The implementation approach of RADP-S dovetails with Afghan and U.S. government strategies in its focus on advancing food security, regenerating agribusiness, and increasing agriculture sector jobs and incomes. RADP-S aims to strengthen the capacity of producers, associations, traders, and agribusinesses to respond to market demands; facilitate lasting market linkages between value chain actors; and support an enabling environment that allows the private sector to thrive. The program places the Afghan private sector at the forefront of implementation and addresses key crosscutting issues of women's empowerment, agribusiness value chain facilitation, and alternative development in all facets of the program. Embodying USAID's vision for sustainable Afghan-led development, RADP-S lays the foundation for greater and more socially inclusive growth in the agricultural economy.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 Summary of Results and Key Achievements

During the third quarter of fiscal year 2015, RADP-S made significant strides in enhancing the capacity of its 78 demonstration farms, integrating women's participation across components, and providing support to agribusinesses throughout the south. The Value Chain Facilitation Unit (VCFU) provided grants to four wheat companies, two HVC input suppliers, and five companies operating in multiple livestock value chains. These companies are in various stages of completing promotional trainings to advertise their products or highlight the benefits of proper animal care for broiler, milk, and meat production. The Value Chain Unit (VCU), created during the reporting



Group work during women's PICS bag training in Kandahar City.

period to enhance RADP-S's work with private enterprises, has begun profiling businesses and identifying interventions that will increase business growth. The RADP-S Enabling Environment Unit (EEU) provided recommendations on the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Policy, the National Livestock Policy, and National Horticulture Policy to MAIL. The RADP-S Gender Unit completed nutrition and Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) bag training for women and has continued to make progress on the Department of Woman's Affairs (DOWA) demonstration farm. The Communications and Outreach Unit began mobile theatre performances educating

over 2,000 attendees on wheat inputs, stone fruit harvesting, and integrated pest management (IPM) and weed control for grapes.

During the reporting period, RADP-S trained 15,213 farmers in wheat topics and 12,914 farmers in high value crop (HVC) topics on 78 demonstration farms in 15 targeted districts of Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces. Master Trainers led wheat trainings on harvest techniques and post-harvest management to reduce wheat loss. The RADP-S Productivity and Production Unit (PPU) equipped demonstration farms with Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) bags and trained farmers in how to use this technology to improve grain storage. The PICS bags are hermetically sealed, removing oxygen and killing any pests inside the bag, which reduces wheat grain loss. Farmers were also trained on identifying wheat maturity, how to properly use harvester machines, wheat cleaning techniques, and wheat storage. Demo farm HVC trainings focused on post-harvest management for grapes in preparation for grape harvesting season in July, as well as orchard IPM and vegetable water management.



USAID/RADP-S
Measuring wheat production in Tirin Kot, Uruzgan.

During the reporting period, RADP-S contracted veterinary field units (VFUs) vaccinated 55,584 animals, medicated 65,073 animals, and provided 1,947 animals with other animal health services such as deworming and hoof care. In addition, RADP-S provided 19 paravets with start-up kits, motorbikes, and solar refrigerators to begin operating 19 new VFUs in the target districts. RADP-S also began the large ruminant herd health training package for farmer extension groups (FEGs), and restarted four FEGs in Chora district of Uruzgan province to bolster support for animal health education in the district.

RADP-S is currently working with 11 wheat, HVC, and livestock companies to create linkages with farmers, promote the companies' brand and products locally, and train staff and farmers on the correct use of seed and fertilizer inputs. Wheat and HVC companies have trained over 800 farmers in Kandahar province on the benefits of certified wheat seeds, wheat inputs and irrigation, inputs for HVC, how to identify powdery mildew in grapes, and the use of environmentally friendly pest control sprays. In addition, livestock companies drafted and completed work plans that include trainings on chicken farming systems, chicken feed and schedules, cattle care, and fish production. Activities are expected to commence during the next reporting period for livestock companies.

The Value Chain Unit surveyed 20 poultry companies based in Kandahar and Kabul, and 10 dairy companies in Kandahar to identify operating capacity and opportunities for collaboration with RADP-S. During the next reporting period, the Value Chain Unit will focus on interventions to

strengthen agribusinesses in financial and organizational management, create linkages between firms, and support women-owned small and medium enterprises.

The Enabling Environment Unit conducted multiple rounds of stakeholder reviews with the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL) and other donor-funded projects supporting MAIL to provide recommendations on the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Policy, the National Livestock Policy, and National Horticulture Policy. Recommendations for the PPP Policy included greater expansion on the PPP models most beneficial to MAIL and clarification on PPP procurement procedures. The EEU added new sections to the National Livestock Policy that emphasized the potential of Afghanistan's fishing industry and improving the quality of meat production.

The RADP-S Gender Unit completed nutrition training for 1,589 women and trained an additional 1,561 women on how to properly use PICS bags to reduce post-harvest wheat loss and improve food security for their families. At the end of the training, the participants received two PICS bags each for their personal use and to educate other women in their respective communities.



USAID/RADP-S

Livestock listening circle session in Nawa, Helmand.

During the reporting period, the Communications and Outreach Unit continued to air the "Better Cultivation, Better Livestock" radio program in all four provinces. In June, the radio program added a 10 minute gender segment on women's participation in agricultural activities, which will continue into the next reporting period. Mobile theatre performances and listening circle activities also continued to instruct participants on technical agricultural subjects in largely illiterate communities,

expanding the reach of RADP-S programming. RADP-S conducts 45 listening circles a month and has trained 1,197 farmers.

2.2 Constraints and Critical Issues

Insecurity throughout Uruzgan province resulted in cancelled trainings for PPU, Gender, and Communications activities during the reporting period. Insecurity along main roads leading to the demonstration farms has reduced training participation in those areas. RADP-S has re-scheduled trainings as needed and is working with its partner in Uruzgan province to identify alternative training locations.

Several considerations led to slightly reduced training numbers during the quarter. The continuation of poppy harvesting in April, especially in Helmand province, resulted in lower than expected training figures for RADP-S. Some RADP-S beneficiary farmers opt out of trainings to harvest poppy, which pays on average 600 AFS a day, a considerable amount for farmers. The wheat cultivation season also drew farmers away from trainings as they tended to their own

famers. RADP-S saw periodically lowered numbers during training sessions as a result of insecurity in parts of Kandahar province and Uruzgan province.

3. Activity Implementation

3.1 Progress Against Indicators

The table below provides an overview of outcome and output indicators employed to measure progress against contractual targets under each component, and RADP-S progress during the quarter against performance monitoring targets. Although the project's demonstration farms are up and running, most of the project's indicators report on outcomes that will be realized on a longer time horizon and most on an annual basis. Therefore this indicator table only addresses output indicators for which the project has collected data since training activities started.

S #	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR & INDICATOR CODE*	DO and IR Supported	Y2 (2015)		Y2 Quarterly Results	Y3 (2016)		Y4 (2017)		Comments
			Target			Target		Target		
1	Number of farmers for whom wheat productivity has increased by a minimum of 20 percent. (Custom)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth	0		0	0		0		Annual indicator
2	Number of farmers for whom HVC productivity has increased by a minimum of 35 percent. (Custom)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth	0		0	0		0		Annual indicator
3	Number of farmers for whom the income from their livestock has increased by 20 percent (Custom)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth	0		0	0		0		Annual indicator
4	Number of farmers trained in improved post-harvesting techniques (Custom)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.1: Productivity of agricultural crops increased	Wheat		10,400	15,000		15,000		
			HVC		5,000	15,000		15,000		
5	Number of women directly benefitting from project interventions (Custom)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.1: Productivity of Agriculture Crops Increased IR 1.2.2: Commercial Viability of Agribusinesses Increased	2,250		2,034	6,000		6,750		

S #	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR & INDICATOR CODE*	DO and IR Supported	Y2 (2015)		Y2 Quarterly Results	Y3 (2016)		Y4 (2017)		Comments
			Target			Target		Target		
6	Number of Firms (small, medium, and large existing businesses) for whom the financial return increased at least 20 percent as result of the project assistance. (Custom)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.1: Productivity of Agriculture Crops Increased IR 1.2.2: Commercial Viability of Agribusinesses Increased		0	0	0	0	10		Annual Indicator
				0	0	0	20			
				0	0	0	8			
7	Percentage Change [and metric ton value] in Annual Production of Key Crops as compared to non-beneficiary farmers (Custom)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.1: Productivity of Agriculture Crops Increased	5%		0%	5%	5%	5%		Annual Indicator
8	Number of individuals who have received US-government supported short-term agricultural sector productivity or food security training (4.5.2-7)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.1: Productivity of Agriculture Crops Increased IR 1.2.2: Commercial Viability of Agribusinesses Increased	15,000		15,151**	30,000	35,000			
9	Number of households (HH) benefitted by agriculture and alternative development interventions in targeted areas (Custom)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed	10,000		11,578**	10,000	10,000			
10	Number of farmers and others who have applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (4.5.2-5)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.1: Productivity of Agriculture Crops Increased	12,000		0	12,000	12,000			
11	Proportion of female participants in USG assisted programs designed to increase access to productive economic resources (assets, credit, income, or employment). (Gender-2)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.1: Productivity of Agriculture Crops Increased IR 1.2.2: Commercial Viability of Agribusinesses Increased	7%		0	10%	12%			Annual Indicator

S #	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR & INDICATOR CODE*	DO and IR Supported	Y2 (2015)	Y2 Quarterly Results	Y3 (2016)	Y4 (2017)	Comments
			Target		Target	Target	
12	Proportion of women who report increased self-efficacy at the conclusion of USG supported training/ programming (Gender-3)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.1: Productivity of Agriculture Crops Increased IR 1.2.2: Commercial Viability of Agribusinesses Increased	50%	0	60%	70%	Annual Indicator
13	Number of target households engaged in nutrition sensitive agriculture activities (Custom)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.1: Productivity of Agriculture Crops Increased IR 1.2.2: Commercial Viability of Agribusinesses Increased	6,000	0	6,500	7,000	Annual Indicator
14	Value of incremental sales by agribusinesses as a result of USG assistance (Custom)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.2: Commercial Viability of Agribusinesses Increased	USD 0.5M	0	USD 1.5 M	USD 2 M	
15	Value of sales of targeted commodities as a result of USG assistance (Custom)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed	Wheat USD 1 M	0	USD 1 M	USD1.5 M	Annual Indicator
			HVC USD 5 M	0	USD 20 M	USD 25 M	
			Livestock USD 1 M	0	USD 1 M	USD1.5 M	
16	Number of private enterprises, producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations (CBOs) that applied new technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (4.5.2-42)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.2: Commercial Viability of Agribusinesses Increased	20	11	50	130	

S #	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR & INDICATOR CODE*	DO and IR Supported	Y2 (2015)	Y2 Quarterly Results	Y3 (2016)	Y4 (2017)	Comments
			Target		Target	Target	
17	Number of firms (excluding farms) or Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) engaged in agricultural and food security-related manufacturing and services now operating more profitably (at or above cost) because of USG assistance. (4.5.2-45)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.2: Commercial Viability of Agribusinesses Increased	0	0	0	0	Annual Indicator
18	Number of farmers growing high value crops as a result of USG assistance (Custom)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.1: Productivity of Agriculture Crops Increased	10,000	0	10,000	12,500	
19	Number of hectares under improved technologies or management practices as a result of USG assistance (4.5.2-2)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.1: Productivity of Agriculture Crops Increased	2,500	0	2,500	2,500	
20	Number of hectares with increased high value crop production as a result of USG programs	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.1: Productivity of Agriculture Crops Increased	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	
21	Annual rate of livestock mortality in the target livestock population	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.1: Productivity of Agriculture Crops Increased IR 1.2.2: Commercial Viability of Agribusinesses Increased	TBD	0	TBD	TBD	

S #	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR & INDICATOR CODE*	DO and IR Supported	Y2 (2015) Target	Y2 Quarterly Results	Y3 (2016) Target	Y4 (2017) Target	Comments
22	Numbers of Policies/Regulations/Administrative Procedures in each of the following stages as a result of USG assistance in each case: Stage 1: Analyzed; Stage 2: Drafted and presented for public stakeholder consultation; Stage 3: Presented for legislation/decreed; Stage 4: Passed/approved; Stage 5: Passed for which implementation has begun (4.5.1-24)	DO: Foundation created for sustainable, agricultural led economic growth IR 1.2: Vibrant & Prosperous Agriculture Sector Developed IR 1.2.1: Productivity of Agriculture Crops Increased IR 1.2.2: Commercial Viability of Agribusinesses Increased	5	3	10	10	

* All RADP-S indicators and targets are under review by RADP-S and USAID. Changes to RADP-S indicators and targets will be done with approval from USAID.

** RADP-S's methodology for counting households and individuals trained are currently under discussion with USAID.

3.2 Key Activities Accomplished During the Quarter

Component I: Wheat

Farmer Trainings in Wheat Topics

During the reporting period, RADP-S trained 15,213 farmers in the following wheat topics: determining soil moisture for wheat plants, wheat irrigation methods, water conservation, and wheat harvest and post-harvest management. Wheat post-harvest loss occurs predominantly due to poor handling and storage by farmers. Accordingly, RADP-S has implemented trainings specifically targeting post-harvest handling to ensure food security for rural Afghans. Coinciding with wheat harvesting season, master trainers provided farmers with multiple methods for identifying wheat maturity that included testing the dryness of wheat stalks. Master trainers demonstrated how to use wheat harvester machines, which reduce harvesting time and is a cost-effective technology for farmers. Master trainers also taught improved wheat cleaning and storage methodologies, including the use of PICS bags.



USAID/RADP-S

Lead farmers demonstrate the use of a wheat threshing machine in Tirin Kot, Uruzgan.

Winter Wheat Cultivation on AMTEX and Demonstration Farms

During May and June, wheat harvesting occurred in Kandahar, Helmand, and Zabul provinces. Wheat harvesting in Uruzgan province typically takes place in late June to early July as a result of a cooler climate and later planting time. RADP-S will report on demo farm wheat yields where RADP-S applied new technologies to increase wheat productivity. Additionally, wheat harvesting on the AMTEX demonstration farm was completed in May and illustrated the difference between applying improved farming techniques over traditional farming methods. At the AMTEX farm, wheat cultivated with inputs like animal manure, urea, and DAP produced 1,307 kilograms of wheat per jerib. Alternatively, wheat cultivated in the traditional Afghan manner that utilized the broadcasting method and no manure, with only urea and DAP inputs, produced 448 kilograms of wheat per jerib. Accordingly, wheat produced using the correct application of inputs produced approximately three times as much wheat over the traditional farming techniques. RADP-S expects to attain similar results on the demonstration farms in the coming months.

Partnerships with Wheat Input Suppliers

During the third quarter, RADP-S provided grants to four companies based in Kandahar City. RADP-S worked with these companies to design targeted concept notes and work plans. The company activities included training of trainers (TOT) for their staff and conducting farmer trainings. The goal of these activities were: (1) to increase the knowledge of company staff in the use of wheat inputs in order to educate customers; (2) assist companies in creating a marketing brand; and (3) showing farmers the productivity of their inputs and seeds on contract farms to convince farmers to buy their products.

Ahmad Baryali Improved Seeds Company

The Ahmad Baryali Improved Seeds Company (ABISC) completed a three month grant activity, training 192 farmers in Daman and Arghandab districts of Kandahar province on the advantages of certified wheat seeds, wheat inputs, irrigation methods, and pest control methods. With support from RADP-S, ABISC created informational banners to use at trainings, company brochures, and business cards to brand the company and create greater name recognition throughout Kandahar province. In the next quarter, RADP-S will monitor ABISC sales and potential outcomes from its promotional trainings.

Sahrai Loy Kandahar Improved Wheat Seed Company

Through RADP-S support, the Sahrai Loy Kandahar Improved Wheat Seed Company concluded



USAID/RADP-S

Sahrai Loy Kandahar Improved Wheat Seed Company shows farmers wheat grown from certified seeds.

grant activities in June. The Sahrai Loy Company trained 180 farmers in Dand district on the advantages of utilizing Sahrai Loy certified wheat seeds, the correct application of inputs, and wheat crop needs throughout the germination period. At the conclusion of Sahrai Loy's trainings, 60 farmers were selected to tour the company's processing plant. During the tour, farmers experienced firsthand how industrial machines process and clean wheat and add chemicals to control for disease. Farmers also visited Sahrai Loy's storage facility and saw how wheat was properly stored in sealed bags on pallets off the ground to avoid pest and animal infiltration.

Sardar Zai Improved Seeds Company

The Sardar Zai Improved Seeds Company has a sophisticated model of contract growers. With over 200 wheat seed growers, the company is seeking a larger customer base in Panjwei district of Kandahar. As a result, Sardar Zai focused its outreach activities in Panjwei, where the company trained 199 farmers during the reporting period on certified wheat seeds and correct wheat input application. Sardar Zai completed its grant activities in June.

SISSCO

The SISSCO wheat company works with a network of genetic plant breeders, improved seed producers, and wheat farmers. SISSCO advertises high yield producing certified wheat seeds that are disease-resistant. In the next several months, SISSCO aims to train 100 farmers in Arghandab, Zheri, and Daman districts of Kandahar province. In June, SISSCO held its first training with 40 farmers from Arghandab district. Trainings on SISSCO products and wheat production will continue into the next reporting period.

Component II: High Value Crops

Farmer Training in High Value Crop Topics



USAID/RADP-S

Orchard water management system demonstration training in Dand, Kandahar.

During the reporting period, RADP-S trained a total of 12,914 farmers in high value crop topics related to vineyard, orchard, and greenhouse vegetables. RADP-S master trainers instructed farmers in vineyard integrated pest management (IPM) and weed control, plant nutrition, and harvest and post-harvest management for grapes. Orchard trainings consisted of IPM and weed control, harvest and post-harvest management, and water management practices. Trainings in greenhouse vegetables also focused on IPM and weed control during the growing season and water management timing and maintenance for greenhouse growing.

Trainings and Vegetable Growth at the AMTEX Demo Farm

RADP-S led trainings on the AMTEX demo farm for key implementing partner (KIP) specialists to reinforce lessons in greenhouse vegetable nutrition, drip irrigation systems for greenhouses, and vineyard water management. Hands on demonstrations at the AMTEX greenhouse allowed KIP specialists to ensure important training points were relayed to master trainers in the districts. In anticipation of greenhouse installation on Uruzgan and Zabul demo farms in the next reporting period, accurate drip irrigation installation will be critical for water conservation demonstrations.

RADP-S KIPs continue to use the AMTEX Demo Farm as a training location and research site. In May, RADP-S's foreman transferred sweet potatoes from nursery seedling trays to the open field for planting. Currently, RADP-S is experimenting with sweet potato yields to determine their viability based on local climate and soil. In addition, RADP-S also transferred tomatoes, eggplants, and bell peppers from seedling trays to raised beds. These three vegetables are growing on the 78 demo farms, and RADP-S can monitor and advise lead farmers on issues like pest control based on the plants germination on the AMTEX farm.



USAID/RADP-S

Harvesting cucumbers from the AMTEX demo farm greenhouse.

Vegetable Growth and Resources for Demonstration Farms

RADP-S lead farmers planted eggplants, tomatoes, and bell peppers in seedling trays that were grown in nurseries before being transplanted to raised beds in June. The use of seedling trays had not been seen by many farmers. Farmers traditionally plant seeds in an open field. However, seedling trays allow farmers to closely monitor plant growth and speed up germination by closely controlling growing conditions. During the reporting period each demo farm received 70 kilograms of urea, 35 kilograms of diammonium phosphate (DAP), and bamboo sticks for grape tying during the grape growing season.

Partnerships with HVC Input Suppliers

During the reporting period, RADP-S signed grant agreements with two HVC input supply companies providing pest management solutions and input for vineyard and orchard crops. Company staff were given TOT training and conducted trainings for farmers in targeted districts throughout Kandahar province. Trainings emphasized environmental considerations when using chemical sprays and correct measurements when calculating inputs.

Dehrawood Chemical Providing Company

The Dehrawood Chemical Providing Company (DCPC) developed training materials for grape growers on treating powdery mildew, the use of grape inputs, pest management products, and methods for biologically, chemically, and mechanically treating disease and pests. DCPC trained 212 farmers on early disease detection and DCPC products to mitigate grape loss. In June, DCPC completed its grant activities.

Zulmai Nasim Agriculture Company

Specializing in HVC inputs and pest management solutions for a variety of HVCs, the Zulmai Nasim Agriculture Company aims to train farmers on the negative effects of insecticides and encourage environmentally-friendly products. Zulmai trained 115 farmers in Dand and Panjwei districts and training activities will continue into the next reporting period.



USAID/RADP-S

Component III: Livestock

The Zulmai Nasim Agriculture Company provides information on their products.

Farmer Extension Group Trainings

Farmers extension groups (FEGs) trained 1,945 livestock owners, 862 men and 1,083 women. In April, FEG members received the last set of trainings in the Small Ruminant Herd Health Package (SRHHP) which focused on sheep and goat neonatal care, cashmere and wool collection, animal



USAID/RADP-S

Farmer extension group training for women in Qalat, Zabul.

feed make-up and schedules, as well as intestinal worms and liver fluke treatment. In May, RADP-S key implementing partner Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) conducted a survey of FEG members to assess the SRHHP and make necessary changes in preparation for the roll-out of the Large Ruminant Herd Health Package (LRHHP) in June. In June, FEG members commenced the LRHHP training. The first training introduced major topics for the next six months and the second session focused on the economic benefits of raising cattle and measures to control for internal and external parasites. In addition, four FEGs in Chora district of Uruzgan province were re-started and received training in large ruminant herd health.

Refresher Trainings for Paravets

During the reporting period, DCA refresher training courses for paravets continued at the Kandahar City Training Center. In total, 91 trainees and 14 DAIL veterinary staff members have completed courses on pharmacology, clinical skills training, and the differential diagnosis of highly

contagious and zoonotic diseases. Upon course completion, trainees displayed significant knowledge gains with pre-tests demonstrating topical knowledge levels averaging 45 to 50 percent, and test results at over 90 percent for post-tests. These trainings are designed based on the cited practical and theoretical needs of paravets surveyed during the last reporting period. Refresher trainings provide instructions on diagnosing animal diseases and strengthen paravet technical skills.

Support to Veterinary Field Units



USAID/RADP-S

DCA monitors a VFU in Jaldak, Zabul.

During the reporting period, DCA signed contracts with four additional Veterinary Field Units (VFUs) in Kandahar province, bringing the number of contracted VFUs to 23 in 14 target districts. The 23 contracted VFUs vaccinated 55,584 animals, medicated 65,073 animals, and provided other animal health services to 1,947 animals. The VFUs vaccinated small and large ruminants against common diseases such as sheep pox, anthrax, hemorrhagic septicemia, foot and mouth disease, and rabies. DCA Regional and Provincial Coordinators monitored VFU animal health logs and financial records to ensure appropriate record

keeping and provided technical assistance as needed. Contracted paravets are provided refresher trainings to update their practical skills and learn about new approaches in veterinary medicine.

Start-Up of New Veterinary Field Units

During the reporting period, RADP-S supported the education of 18 paravet students at the Charikar Veterinary Training and Support Center (VTSC). The RADP-S Livestock Team Lead made several visits to the school to assess the quality of the trainings and encouraged the students to continue their work. In June, the students completed final examinations. Seventeen of the 18 students passed their exams and will be starting new VFUs during the next reporting period.



USAID/RADP-S

Paravets examine their VFU start-up kits.

The first round of RADP-S supported students who graduated in December 2014 received VFU start-up kits, motorbikes, solar refrigerators, and other items needed to begin delivering animal health services. In June, RADP-S distributed paravet kits at graduation ceremonies attended by DAIL, Community Development Council (CDC), and District Development Assembly (DDA) representatives. DAIL representatives praised this positive development and encouraged the new paravets to support their communities. By the end of the reporting period, 19 new VFUs were opened, bringing the number of RADP-S supported VFUs to 42 throughout all 15 targeted districts of Kandahar, Helmand, Urzgan, and Zabul provinces.

Partnerships with Livestock Companies

RADP-S awarded grants to five companies operating in various livestock value chains. The grants provide company staff with greater technical expertise, teach farmers how to care for animals using company promoted inputs, and ultimately, enable farmers to raise healthier animals. In

consultation with RADP-S value chain specialists, the companies finalized their curriculum, training materials, work plans, and promotional materials in May and June. RADP-S has worked closely with each company to outline activities, timelines, and budgets that will connect them with a targeted group of farmers and producers. Training activities will begin in the next reporting period.

Ahmad Shahi Agriculture Chicken Farm

The Ahmad Shahi Agriculture Chicken Farm completed a four and a half month work plan, preparing for a 15-day training course for 52 contract farmers. RADP-S value chain specialists provided technical advice during the work planning process on timelines and logistical considerations. According to the work plan, farmers will be trained in chicken rearing, feed schedules, and chicken vaccinations and medicines. The company will select 26 trainees to visit poultry farms and chicken equipment suppliers in Nangarhar province.

Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughter House

In partnership with RADP-S, the Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughter House will train staff members and its contract farmers in poultry farm design, including proper ventilation and lighting, as well as improved techniques in chicken rearing. The company will also hire a consultant to analyze the company's chicken assembly process and recommend new assembly methods and packaging materials to meet market demands. RADP-S will provide oversight of training materials to ensure accuracy. RADP-S completed a baseline report of the company and training activities are expected to start in the next reporting period.

Khurasan Cub Fish Company

The Khurasan Cub Fish Company has identified an interest among farmers to raise fish and the company has the ability to ship fish to different markets. In anticipation of farmer trainings, the Khurasan Cub Fish Company completed a TOT for 10 staff members in fish production, artificial pond creation, fish pond maintenance, feeding schedules, and fish disease identification. The company will train 160 farmers in pond creation and fish raising in July.

Mostamand Etihad Pvt Ltd

The Mostamand Etihad Pvt Ltd will train 250 cattle owners in Dand district on proper feed and feed ratios for cattle as well as early identification of cattle diseases. Most importantly, these lessons will demonstrate to farmers that proper animal care results in higher quality meat and milk for consumption and sale. The company will also promote its feed supplies and medicine products to trainees to improve distribution and sales.

Sayed Sadat Group

Sayed Sadat Group is a broiler input supply company that works primarily with small scale broiler producers. The company aims to increase its customer base and provide a better product by teaching their 75 contracted broiler producers and 75 interested broiler producers the benefits of quality inputs for broilers, best feed and feeding times, and medicines and treatment options for common diseases. During the reporting period, the Sayede Sadat Group finalized their training curriculum and promotional materials, with trainings beginning in the next reporting period.

Component IV: Enabling Environment

Public Private Partnership Policy Revised and Submitted

In the second quarter, the RADP-S Enabling Environment Unit (EEU) submitted a draft of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Policy to the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL). MAIL provided feedback on the PPP policy in June. Through multiple meetings with the Minister of MAIL and the MAIL Director General of Plan, Policy, and Programs Coordination, the EEU made revisions to clarify certain components of the policy. Specifically, PPP models under consideration were further defined, priority actions in the agriculture sector were added, and PPP procurement processes were consolidated into one section. The EEU has submitted the revised policy to MAIL and awaits further comments and feedback.

National Livestock Policy Revised

During the reporting period, the EEU, in coordination with the MAIL Director of Animal Husbandry and MAIL Livestock Directorate, reviewed the Afghanistan National Livestock Policy and provided recommendations in-line with RADP-S objectives. Specifically, recommendations were made to promote PPPs, improve livestock infrastructure, address animal feed and nutrition, and advocate for women's participation in livestock care. Gender mainstreaming considerations are especially important given women's role in poultry production and the care of small ruminants.

In June, MAIL provided responses to the RADP-S recommendations and additional revisions were made by the EEU. Specifically, the EEU expanded policy sections on improving veterinary services and controlling for animal diseases. At the request of MAIL, the EEU bolstered the policy's pisciculture section to address the growth potential of the country's fisheries. RADP-S added sections on improving fish inputs, increasing the availability of equipment for fisheries, and allocating resources to address fish diseases and contamination.

Horticulture Policy under MAIL Review

The EEU reviewed and provided MAIL with recommendations on the National Horticulture Policy during the reporting period. Initial guidance on supporting women's horticulture training and participation in extension programs were provided as necessary provisions of the policy. Market interventions to strengthen links between producers and exporters were also recommended to MAIL. RADP-S awaits further requests for technical assistance.

Review of MAIL Regulations and the 100 Day Plan

The Enabling Environment Unit has reviewed MAIL policies, laws, and regulations which have been drafted and enacted, but lack proper documentation. The EEU will work with MAIL on addressing this issue and advocating to enforce policies relevant to RADP-S programming, especially in the areas of water management, wheat production, and livestock.

RADP-S analyzed and provided recommendations to MAIL on the Ministry's 100 Day Plan for the new administration. In coordination with the USAID-funded Capacity Building and Change Management Program II (CBCMP II), areas for RADP-S intervention, such as irrigation, horticulture reform, and women's extension services, were included for MAIL's reference.

Cross-Cutting Activities

Creating Market Linkages

Expanding RADP-S's Value Chain Approach

Beginning in April, RADP-S expanded its value chain component to encompass two approaches. The first approach focuses on value chain facilitation, which works to link businesses to farmers,

incrementally increase sales, and provides technical and financial management training to selected companies. The second approach, and Value Chain Unit (VCU), focuses on larger market actors, business to business linkages, and supporting activities that will impact multiple actors along the value chain. RADP-S expanded its value chain team and provided an intensive five-day training for RADP-S value chain specialists on developing a cost-effective, sustainable value chain facilitation program built on market-based solutions, led by RADP-S's Value Chain Advisor. A follow-on training, led by the Afghanistan Trade and Revenue (ATAR) project, was also held for RADP-S staff during the reporting period. ATAR provided a five day Supply Chain Management Training of Trainers workshop that covered modern supply chain management, techniques to improve supply chain strategies, and international best practices for supply chain management. These sessions are aimed at increasing the capacity of RADP-S value chain specialists to advise private businesses and strengthen RADP-S target value chains.

Survey of Poultry and Dairy Businesses in Kabul and Kandahar

During the reporting period, the Value Chain Unit conducted a survey of 10 poultry businesses based in Kabul and 10 poultry business based in Kandahar. The survey asked business owners to provide information on the size of their business, number of employees, challenges, and opportunities for growth. RADP-S will use this information to guide interventions along the poultry value chain. The poultry businesses provide a variety of chicken inputs such as feed, broiler chicks, and equipment as well as medicines. Five dairy businesses based in Kandahar were also surveyed in order for RADP-S to understand their operating capacity. The dairy businesses provide local markets with milk, butter, and cheese products.

Facilitating Business to Business Connections

In coordination with the Financial Access for Investing in the Development of Afghanistan (FAIDA) project, RADP-S facilitated a tour of the Omaid Bahar Juice Processing Factory in Kabul City with the Minister of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock. The Omaid Bahar Factory is a Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point (HACCP) certified company, with safety procedures meeting international standards. Juice processing requires a high volume of fruit and the Omaid Bahar Factory is interested in connecting with RADP-S supported farmers and traders who can supply fruits, such as pomegranates, from the south. The RADP-S team will continue to explore areas of collaboration between businesses in the south and the Omaid Bahar Factory.



USAID/RADP-S

The Minister of MAIL tours the Omaid Bahar Juice Processing Factory in Kabul City.

The Value Chain Unit also facilitated a meeting between the Kandahar Fresh Fruit Association (KFFA) and Kabul-based Amini Sadri Ltd. KFFA seeks a variety of high quality packaging materials for pomegranates, grapes, and stone fruits grown throughout Kandahar province. Amini Sadri Ltd has an array of packaging options to keep fruits in good condition during export and agreed to send KFFA samples. RADP-S will be monitoring any potential deals that result from this connection.

Training Fruit and Vegetable Traders from Southern Afghanistan

In May, 74 fruit and vegetable traders from Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces received training on grape post-harvest management and HACCP. Post-harvest loss in grapes greatly impacts businesses, reducing available product and decreasing overall sales. However, the training emphasized that losses can be prevented through proper harvesting techniques, pre-cooling, and storage methods that extend shelf-life. This training provided traders with information important for their contract farmers, as well as for businesses moving products from the farm-gate to the local market. HACCP taught traders critical points during fruit processing when the risk for food contamination is highest and how to reduce risks.

Gender

Nutrition Training

Basic nutrition training for women concluded during the reporting period. RADP-S nutrition training covered the prevention and signs of malnutrition, how to maintain a healthy diet, and the benefits of vitamins and minerals. In total, RADP-S trained 1,589 women in Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces.

PICS Bags Trainings

RADP-S gender specialists led PICS bag trainings in all target districts. The three-layers of the PICS bags prevent pests from infiltrating stored grains or legumes. Hermetically sealing the bags removes oxygen, killing any pests that may have continued to destroy the grain crop. Each woman attending the training received two PICS bags to test the technology for themselves and compare it against traditional wheat bags. PICS bags training concluded in June with 1,561 women trained.



USAID/RADP-S

PICS bag training for women in Jaldak, Zabul.

Progress of the DOWA Demonstration Farm

During the reporting period, a Request for Proposal (RFP) was released to enhance the farming capacity of the DOWA demonstration farm. The RFP scope of work includes digging a bore well, establishing an irrigation system, installing a generator room, and building a roof in-between containers for packing and training. A company has been selected for the work and is currently undergoing vetting. In addition, a Request for Application was released for the financial and operational management of the farm. RADP-S is reviewing applicants for this scope of work and will be finalizing an organization in the next reporting period.

Communications and Outreach

“Better Cultivation, Better Livestock” Radio Program

RADP-S’s radio program “Better Cultivation, Better Livestock” aired in all four provinces. DAIL extension agents, KIP specialists, and university agriculture specialists participated in the radio program to answer listeners’ questions. During the reporting period, the following topics were covered: vineyard IPM and weed control, greenhouse water management, wheat harvesting and post-harvest techniques, livestock hemorrhagic septicemia, vineyard nutrition, parturient paresis in cows, and livestock mastitis.



USAID/RADP-S

“Better Cultivation, Better Livestock” show at the RTA station in Zabul.

In June, the “Better Cultivation, Better Livestock” program devoted 10 minutes to gender specialists in Kandahar and Helmand to speak on safe-handling during the grape jam, jelly, and vinegar making process. The show covered grape post-harvest handling, and the gender specialists highlighted women's participation in making grape products both for family consumption and sale. Due to security concerns, the gender relevant topics were read by male HVC specialists in Uruzgan and Zabul provinces.

Public Short Announcements

Public Short Announcements are aired four times a day and run on a weekly loop. From April to June, topics most relevant to the growing season and livestock seasonal diseases were broadcasted. Messages included information on the use of animal manure, livestock brucellosis disease, orchard weed control, stone fruit maturity, vegetable irrigation schedules, and nitrogen deficiency in soil.

Listening Circles

Listening Circles provide farmers with an opportunity to listen to the RADP-S program in a group of about 15 individuals. Each listening circle session is attended by a wheat, HVC, or livestock specialist who answers technical questions from participants. RADP-S facilitates 45 listening circles throughout target districts each month. In total, 1,197 farmers have been trained in wheat and orchard nutrition, livestock anthrax disease, wheat harvest management, vineyard IPM and weed control, and livestock hemorrhagic septicemia disease.



USAID/RADP-S

Listening circle on anthrax disease in Nahre Saraj, Helmand.

Mobile Theatre Performances

Mobile theatre performances began during the reporting period to engage farmers in a format that is traditionally popular in the south and conveys technical knowledge in a comedic and dramatic fashion. Throughout the four provinces, 29 performance drew about 2,383 spectators. Crowds watched shows on farmers learning how to use fertilizer and inputs to increase their wheat crop, harvesting techniques for stone fruit and jam production, and controlling for vineyard pests and grape harvesting.

3.3 Planned for Next Reporting Period

In the fourth quarter, RADP-S will continue to connect with traders and agribusinesses throughout the four provinces, expand work with women farmers, and monitor the opening of new VFUs. The RADP-S Value Chain Unit anticipates connecting with businesses through surveys, conferences, and focus groups. The RADP-S Production and Productivity Unit will conduct trainings on all 78 demonstration farms and assess the operating status of VFUs. The Enabling Environment Unit will coordinate with MAIL on the Livestock, Public Private Partnership, and Horticulture policies.

The Gender Unit will begin an Agribusiness Empowerment Program for DOWAs and girls high schools in the four provinces. The Agribusiness Empowerment Program consists of the Taraqi Saba curriculum, which encourages women and girls to increase their business acumen through business plan development, budgeting, communications training, and negotiation skills. RADP-S seeks to empower women and girls and increase their access to economic opportunities in agriculture. The Communications and Outreach Unit will begin airing a 30 minute radio program devoted to women's agricultural work and nutritional health in Kandahar and Helmand provinces.

Planned activities are detailed below:

- Continue wheat and HVC training in all target districts. Training topics for the next quarter include: wheat crop rotation and establishment, orchard harvest and post-harvest management, orchard IPM and weed control, orchard and vineyard water management, winter vegetable maintenance, and greenhouse establishment
- Conclude wheat harvesting on demonstration farms and report results
- Install greenhouses on Zabul and Uruzgan demonstration farms
- Train KIPs HVC and wheat specialist on AMTEX farm
- Monitor the start-up of new VFUs
- Continue paravet refresher training courses
- Monitor grant activities and track company sales figures
- Release RADP-S's second Annual Program Statement (APS) focused on agribusinesses operating in RADP-S value chains
- Conduct a pre-bid conference for the APS
- Conduct poultry and dairy producer focus groups to identify constraints and opportunities
- Hold a conference for women agribusiness owners to create an avenue for business to business transaction and
- Provide technical recommendations on the Livestock, Public Private Partnership, and Horticulture policies
- Install greenhouses at DOWAs and girls high schools and begin the Agribusiness Empowerment Program
- Begin airing a 30 minute radio program to provide technical advice to women on agricultural issues and nutritional health

3.4 Lessons Learned

During the reporting period, RADP-S identified several challenges and worked to immediately address these challenges through additional activities and follow up. RADP-S observed the following lessons learned:

- Increasing women's participation in communication and outreach activities has been met with multiple challenges, especially in Uruzgan and Zabul provinces. Women's participation in major public events like outdoor mobile theatre performances where men and women would interact is considered culturally inappropriate. In addition, radio stations in Uruzgan and Zabul have not previously hosted women guests and there are security concerns in this regard. Despite these challenges, RADP-S has been able to make in-roads in Kandahar and Helmand provinces with women appearing as guests on radio shows. In Uruzgan and Zabul, ensuring that information is provided on women's

participation in agriculture has been a priority, even if that information is read through male guests. RADP-S is exploring how to engage with girls high schools and other gathering places for women which would allow them to also engage in public events.

- The low technical and operating capacity of small businesses in Kandahar City have been a challenge for the Value Chain Facilitation Unit (VCFU). Grantees did not understand RADP-S's M&E processes and had difficulties managing the technical implementation timeline they had created. The RADP-S team held trainings to address these issues throughout implementation. The VCFU team will now make sure that M&E and work plan trainings are held much earlier on in the grants process in order to ensure a quicker start-up of activities.

4. Collaboration with GIROA, other donor projects, or other USAID projects

4.1 GIROA

Kabul

In June, RADP-S met with the Minister of MAIL, along with other USAID-funded agriculture projects, to provide an overview of RADP-S activities and potential synergy between RADP-S and MAIL. Areas of continued coordination include the PPP and livestock policy. RADP-S also recommended initiatives in animal husbandry and gender mainstreaming to MAIL.

Kandahar

ADA held monthly coordination meetings with either the DAIL Director or the Deputy DAIL Director to provide updates on RADP-S training activities and monthly targets. ADA encouraged DAIL staff to attend demo farm trainings and build their technical capacity in new farming methodologies. The Deputy DAIL Director agreed to continue extending the invitation to DAIL extension agents.

Helmand

In Helmand, key implementing partner Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA) held monthly meetings with the DAIL Director to provide updates on the RADP-S project and encourage the participation of traders in RADP-S trainings and activities. DCA Helmand staff also met regularly with the DAIL Provincial Veterinarian and Head of Animal Husbandry to provide updates on DCA's refresher trainings courses, open to DAIL animal husbandry staff, and the status of the VFUs.

Uruzgan

In Uruzgan province, ADA held monthly coordination meetings with the DAL Director to discuss training activities and RADP-S value chain activities. ADA also attended the non-governmental organization (NGO) coordination meeting among implementers in Uruzgan in order to reduce activity overlap and provide project updates. DCA met with the DAIL Head of the Animal Health Department to inform him of FEG activities and support for the new VFUs and paravets.

Zabul

ADA held meetings with the DAIL and Deputy DAIL Directors during the reporting period to provide updates on trainings and the status of demo farms in Zabul. DCA has introduced its extension workers to the District Governor of Shah Joy district and briefed him on DCA activities. Both ADA and DCA encouraged the participation of DAIL staff in all RADP-S activities.

4.2 USAID and Other Projects

Other USAID Projects

The RADP-S Gender and PPU teams participated in PICS bags training in Herat, hosted by the Afghanistan Agriculture Extension Program II, with colleagues from the Regional Agricultural Development Program-West (RADP-W). The trainings provided valuable information for the Gender Unit's own PICS bags trainings and allowed multiple USAID agriculture projects to collaborate and identify best practices.

RADP-S also participated in the Alternative Development Conference, hosted by the Kandahar Food Zone (KFZ) to acknowledge the construction of 11 new irrigation canals and alternative livelihood initiatives in the south. RADP-S and KFZ share similar missions and coordination between the two projects has been critical. RADP-S and KFZ have previously coordinated on trainings in HVC post-harvest loss and greenhouse cultivation. Future coordination efforts, especially in regards to water management, are being explored.

In coordination with the Afghanistan Trade and Revenue (ATAR) project and RADP-W, RADP-S hosted a five-day Supply Chain Management Training of Trainers Workshop and Association Management and Development Training for RADP-S and RADP-W technical staff. The workshops focused on modern supply chain management and strategies, relevant to RADP-S and RADP-W's work in the wheat, HVC, and livestock value chains.

5. Management and Administrative Issues

5.1 Personnel

As of July 31, 2015 RADP-S has a total of 125 local national employees and nine long-term expatriate employees. During the reporting period, two key personnel positions departed the project, the RADP-S Technical Deputy Chief of Party and Value Chain Advisor. The Enabling Environment Team Lead stepped in as acting Technical Deputy Chief of Party and was subsequently approved as Technical Chief of Party during the reporting period. The former PPU Advisor was proposed as the Value Chain Advisor and also received approval during the reporting period. A M&E STTA was also approved to finalize RADP-S's M&E Plan and streamline data collection processes.

During the reporting period, RADP-S hired the following long-term local national positions: two Logistics and Inventory Assistants, two Value Chain Managers, Value Chain Director, M&E Director, IT Assistant, and three Provincial Extension Supervisors.

5.2 Adaption of Activity

RADP-S has quickly mobilized a Value Chain Unit devoted to meeting the project's intended activities with private enterprises, agribusinesses, producers organizations, water users associations, women's groups, trade and business associations, and civil society organizations involved in agriculture. In order to increase the value of incremental sales for agribusinesses and increase the sales of targeted commodities in wheat, high value crops, and livestock, the Value Chain Unit will use a multi-tiered approach to engaging with businesses. The Value Chain Unit will work with private enterprises to identify activities to increase returns along the value chain, such as a cold storage plan to store and sell HVCs out of season at a higher price, and support these enterprises through subcontracts. The Value Chain Unit will also facilitate business to

business opportunities for business owners, both women and men, in order to increase prospects for new business deals and increase sales.

5.3 Modifications and Amendments

No modifications or amendments were made to the contract during the reporting period.

6. Success Story



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FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

FIRST PERSON

Improving the Nutritional Well-Being of Women and Families

**RADP-S Nutrition Training
empower women to improve
their family's health in
southern Afghanistan**

Without knowledge of proper diet or nutrition, she regularly prepared the same meat and rice dishes for her family. She had concerns that her children's fatigue and occasional sicknesses could be prevented and sought more information from the Department of Women's Affairs. She was advised to attend a nutrition training that would help her understand the benefits of dietary diversity.

In southern Afghanistan, heightened insecurity and restrictive cultural norms have negatively impacted women's access to health education, services, and information. As a consequence, women often do not know the importance of good nutrition nor the negative health effects a poor diet can have on themselves and their families.

Working closely with the Departments of Women's Affairs and community shuras, the USAID-funded Regional Agricultural Development Program-South (RADP-S) launched a nutrition training program to educate women on healthy eating and preventing malnutrition. Trainings implemented throughout Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan provinces have taught 1,589 women the benefits of incorporating fruits and vegetables into their regular diet and how to safely prepare meals balanced in carbohydrates, protein, fats, vitamins, and minerals.

After the training, [REDACTED] stated, "I learned the importance of eating different kinds of foods, such as fish, grains, milk, chicken, vegetables, and fruits and that we should use less fatty animal protein sources." With this knowledge, women have the power to improve their family's well-being and teach their children healthier eating habits that can have long-lasting community impact.

[REDACTED] has added more variety to her cooking and now makes sure that meals include a mix of fruits, vegetables, healthy carbohydrates, protein sources, and dairy. She has already seen an improvement in her children's energy and is hoping to share her new knowledge. [REDACTED] emphasized, "I now use more vegetables and fruits when providing meals for my family. I would like to cultivate a vegetable garden for my family's use and I am encouraging other families to grow more vegetables too."

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Annex A. Key Activities Accomplished During the Quarter

Project Component	Activity Description	Target of Activity	Expected Outcome of Activity	Dates of Activity	Location information		
					Province	Districts	Lat Long
Wheat	Training of Trainer (ToT)	Build capacity of KIP specialists	KIP wheat specialists will conduct wheat trainings in districts with master trainers	April 2015	Kandahar	Daman	
Wheat	Wheat Water Management Demonstration Training	Increase farmer beneficiaries knowledge of water management and conversation for wheat	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training	April 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai. Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	
Wheat	Wheat Harvest and Post-Harvest Management Classroom Training	Increase farmer beneficiaries knowledge of wheat harvest maturity and reducing post-harvest loss	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training	May 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai. Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Tirin Kot, Chora, Dehrawood	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	
Wheat	Wheat Harvest and Post-Harvest Management Demonstration Training	Increase farmer beneficiaries knowledge of wheat harvest maturity and reducing post-harvest loss	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training	June 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai. Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	
Wheat	Grants to Wheat Input Supplier	Support promotional trainings to connect wheat input supply company to farmers	Value of incremental sales by agribusiness as a result of USG assistance	April 2015	Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai. Zheri	

Project Component	Activity Description	Target of Activity	Expected Outcome of Activity	Dates of Activity	Location information		
					Province	Districts	Lat Long
HVC	Training of Trainer (ToT)	Build capacity of KIP HVC specialists to train on demo farms	KIP HVC specialists will conduct HVC trainings in districts with master trainers	April 2015	Kandahar	Daman	
HVC	Orchard IPM and Weed Control	Build capacity of farmer beneficiaries in mechanical, biological, and chemical weed control	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training	April 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Qalat, Shah Joy	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri	
HVC	Orchard Harvest and Post-Harvest Management Classroom Training	Build capacity of farmer beneficiaries in stone fruit maturity and post-harvest techniques	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training	May 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Qalat, Shah Joy	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri	
HVC	Orchard Water Management Demonstration Training	Increase knowledge of farmer beneficiaries in water irrigation methods and water conservation	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training	June 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Qalat, Shah Joy	
HVC	Winter Vegetable Water Management Classroom Training	Increase knowledge of farmer beneficiaries in water irrigation methods and water conservation	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training	April 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Qalat, Shah Joy	
HVC	Winter Vegetable IPM	Build capacity of farmer beneficiaries in	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term	May 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	

Project Component	Activity Description	Target of Activity	Expected Outcome of Activity	Dates of Activity	Location information		
					Province	Districts	Lat Long
	and weed control classroom training	mechanical, biological, and chemical weed control	agricultural sector productivity or food security training		Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	
HVC	Winter Vegetable Water Management Demonstration Training	Increase farmer beneficiaries knowledge of water management and conversation for wheat	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training	June 2015	Helmand	Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Dand, Panjwai	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	
HVC	Vineyard IPM and weed control classroom training	Build capacity of farmer beneficiaries in mechanical, biological, and chemical weed control	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training	April 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Panjwai, Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak	
HVC	Vineyard Nutrition Demonstration Training	Build capacity of farmer beneficiaries to identify soil deficiency for vineyard crops	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training	May 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	
HVC	Vineyard Harvest and Post-Harvest Classroom Training	Build capacity of farmer beneficiaries in grape maturity, harvesting, and post-harvest techniques	Farmers will receive USG supported short-term agricultural sector productivity training	June 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	

Project Component	Activity Description	Target of Activity	Expected Outcome of Activity	Dates of Activity	Location information		
					Province	Districts	Lat Long
HVC	Grants provided to HVC input supply company	Support promotional trainings to connect wheat input supply company to farmers	Value of incremental sales by agribusiness as a result of USG assistance	April-May 2015	Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai	
Livestock	FEG Trainings	Increase awareness of VFU services and importance of livestock care	FEGs will provide basic knowledge on various livestock issues to local communities	April-June 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai	
					Uruzgan	Dehrawood, Tirin Kot, Chora	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	
Livestock	Support to VFUs	Build capacity of veterinary field units to medicate and vaccinate animals	42 VFUs will be prepared to help address going concerns in regards to animal disease control	April-June 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Panjwai	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Qalat, Shar-i-Safa	
Livestock	Para-Veterinary Training	Build capacity of trainees to be para-veterinaries	18 trainees will complete para-veterinary training course	April-June 2015	Parwan	Charikar	
Livestock	Paravet Refresher Trainings	Build the capacity of paravets to meet animal health needs	Paravets will be better able to diagnoses and treat animals	April-June 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Dand, Panjwai	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	
Enabling Environment	Revise Livestock, PPP, and Horticulture Policies	Provide recommendations for draft policies	Provide analysis for MAIL policies	April-June 2015	Kabul	Kabul	
Value Chain Unit	Support agribusiness	Provide companies with opportunity to connect	Companies will be increase sales through business	April-June 2015	Kabul	Kabul	

Project Component	Activity Description	Target of Activity	Expected Outcome of Activity	Dates of Activity	Location information		
					Province	Districts	Lat Long
	participation in Agriculture Fair	with other market actors	relations with other companies				
Gender	Nutrition Training	Increase knowledge of female household members in basic nutrition	Female trainees will be empowered to improve family nutritional choices	April-June 2015	Uruzgan	Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Qalat	
					Kandahar	Aino Mena	
					Helmand	Lashkar Gah	
Gender	PIC Bags Training	Increase knowledge of wheat post-harvest management for women	Women will benefit from project interventions	April-June 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	
Communications and Outreach	“Better Cultivation, Better Livelihoods” Radio Program	Increase awareness about project activities	Local communities will have more knowledge on issues related to productivity and production	April-June 2015	Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, Uruzgan	Broadcast in all target districts	
					Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, Uruzgan	Broadcast in all target districts	
					Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, Uruzgan	Broadcast in all target districts	
					Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, Uruzgan	Broadcast in all target districts	
Communications and Outreach	Listening Circles	Increase farmer knowledge in wheat, HVC, and livestock activities	Local communities will have more knowledge on issues related to productivity and production	April-June 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	
					Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri	
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot	
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy	
Communications and Outreach	Mobiles Theatre Performances	Increase farmer knowledge in wheat,	Local communities will have more knowledge on issues	April-June 2015	Helmand	Lashkar Gah, Nad Ali, Nahr-i-Seraj, Nawa	

Project Component	Activity Description	Target of Activity	Expected Outcome of Activity	Dates of Activity	Location information			
					Province	Districts	Lat	Long
		HVC, and livestock activities	related to productivity and production		Kandahar	Arghandab, Daman, Dand, Panjwai, Zheri		
					Uruzgan	Chora, Dehrawood, Tirin Kot		
					Zabul	Jaldak, Qalat, Shah Joy		

Table 1: Demo Farm Coordinates

Demo Farm Code #	Province	District	Village	GPS Coordinates
Arghandab 01	Kandahar	Arghandab		
Arghandab 02	Kandahar	Arghandab		
Arghandab 03	Kandahar	Arghandab		
Arghandab 04	Kandahar	Arghandab		
Arghandab 05	Kandahar	Arghandab		
Arghandab 06	Kandahar	Arghandab		
Daman 01	Kandahar	Daman		
Daman 02	Kandahar	Daman		
Daman 03	Kandahar	Daman		
Daman 04	Kandahar	Daman		
Daman 05	Kandahar	Daman		
Daman 06	Kandahar	Daman		
Dand 01	Kandahar	Dand		
Dand 02	Kandahar	Dand		
Dand 03	Kandahar	Dand		
Dand 04	Kandahar	Dand		
Dand 05	Kandahar	Dand		
Dand 06	Kandahar	Dand		
Panjwai 01	Kandahar	Panjwai		
Panjwai 02	Kandahar	Panjwai		
Panjwai 03	Kandahar	Panjwai		
Panjwai 04	Kandahar	Panjwai		
Panjwai 05	Kandahar	Panjwai		
Panjwai 06	Kandahar	Panjwai		

Demo Farm Code #	Province	District	Village	GPS Coordinates
Zheri 01	Kandahar	Zheri		
Zheri 02	Kandahar	Zheri		
Zheri 03	Kandahar	Zheri		
Zheri 04	Kandahar	Zheri		
Zheri 05	Kandahar	Zheri		
Zheri 06	Kandahar	Zheri		
Lashkargah 01	Helmand	Lashkar Gah		
Lashkargah 02	Helmand	Lashkar Gah		
Lashkargah 03	Helmand	Lashkar Gah		
Lashkargah 04	Helmand	Lashkar Gah		
Lashkargah 05	Helmand	Lashkar Gah		
Lashkargah 06	Helmand	Lashkar Gah		
Nahri Saraj 01	Helmand	Nahri Saraj		
Nahri Saraj 02	Helmand	Nahri Saraj		
Nahri Saraj 03	Helmand	Nahri Saraj		
Nahri Saraj 04	Helmand	Nahri Saraj		
Nahri Saraj 05	Helmand	Nahri Saraj		
Nahri Saraj 06	Helmand	Nahri Saraj		
Nawa 01	Helmand	Nawa		
Nawa 02	Helmand	Nawa		

Demo Farm Code #	Province	District	Village	GPS Coordinates
Nawa 03	Helmand	Nawa		
Nawa 04	Helmand	Nawa		
Nawa 05	Helmand	Nawa		
Nawa 06	Helmand	Nawa		
Nad Ali 01	Helmand	Nad Ali		
Nad Ali 02	Helmand	Nad Ali		
Nad Ali 03	Helmand	Nad Ali		
Nad Ali 04	Helmand	Nad Ali		
Nad Ali 05	Helmand	Nad Ali		
Nad Ali 06	Helmand	Nad Ali		
Qalat 01	Zabul	Qalat		
Qalat 02	Zabul	Qalat		
Qalat 03	Zabul	Qalat		
Qalat 04	Zabul	Qalat		
Qalat 05	Zabul	Qalat		
Shajoy 01	Zabul	Shajoy		
Shajoy 02	Zabul	Shajoy		
Shajoy 03	Zabul	Shajoy		
Shajoy 04	Zabul	Shajoy		
Jaldak 01	Zabul	Jaldak		
Jaldak 02	Zabul	Jaldak		

Demo Farm Code #	Province	District	Village	GPS Coordinates
Tarinkot 01	Uruzgan	Tirin Kot		
Tarinkot 02	Uruzgan	Tirin Kot		
Tarinkot 03	Uruzgan	Tirin Kot		
Tarinkot 04	Uruzgan	Tirin Kot		
Tarinkot 05	Uruzgan	Tirin Kot		
Tarinkot 06	Uruzgan	Tirin Kot		
Dehrawood 01	Uruzgan	Dehrawood		
Dehrawood 02	Uruzgan	Dehrawood		
Dehrawood 03	Uruzgan	Dehrawood		
Dehrawood 04	Uruzgan	Dehrawood		
Chora 01	Uruzgan	Chora		
Chora 02	Uruzgan	Chora		
Chora 03	Uruzgan	Chora		

Table 2: RADP-S and KIP Office Locations

RADP-South and KIP Office Locations			
Name	Location	Latitude	Longitude
RADPS Office Amtex	Daman, Kandahar		
RADPS Office Baron	Kabul		
ADA Office	Dand, Kandahar		
CHA Office	Lashkar Gah, Helmand		
ADA Office	Qalat, Zabul		
ADA Office	Tirin Kot, Uruzgan		
DCA Office	Kandahar		

Annex B. Quarterly Financial Report

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AFGHANISTAN

REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM-SOUTH (RADP-S)

306-C-00-13-00018

MONTHLY REPORT: June 2015



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DISCLAIMER

The author's views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development or the United States Government.

ACRONYMS

ABISC	Ahmad Baryali Improved Seeds Company
ADA	Afghan Development Association
ASL	Amini Sadri Ltd
ATAR	Afghanistan Trade and Revenue
CHA	Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance
DAIL	Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
DCA	Dutch Committee for Afghanistan
DCPC	Dehrawood Chemical Providing Company
DOWA	Department of Women's Affairs
EEU	Enabling Environment Unit
FEG	Farmer Extension Group
HACCP	Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point
HVC	High Value Crop
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
KFFA	Kandahar Fresh Fruit Association
KIP	Key Implementing Partner
LRHHP	Large Ruminant Herd Health Package
MAIL	Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PICS	Purdue Improved Crop Storage
PPP	Public Private Partnership
PSA	Public Short Announcement
RADP-S	Regional Agricultural Development Program-South
RADP-W	Regional Agricultural Development Program-West
RFA	Request for Application
TOT	Training of Trainers
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VCFU	Value Chain Facilitation Unit
VCU	Value Chain Unit
VFU	Veterinary Field Unit
VTSC	Veterinary Training and Support Center

Cover Photo: A RADP-S paravet student administers cow medicine as part of his final examinations.

SECTION I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Program Description

The purpose of the Regional Agricultural Development Program-South (RADP-S) is to improve food and economic security for rural Afghans in the provinces of Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan. To accomplish this goal, RADP-S focuses on improving the productivity and profitability of the wheat, high value crops, and livestock value chains, while addressing policy, legal and regulatory constraints affecting value chain development. This agricultural development program supports the consolidation of licit economies to fuel sustainable long term economic growth, including providing alternatives to poppy cultivation.

The implementation approach of RADP-S dovetails with Afghan and U.S. government strategies in its focus on advancing food security, regenerating agribusiness, and increasing agriculture sector jobs and incomes. RADP-S aims to strengthen the capacity of producers, associations, traders, and agribusinesses to respond to market demands; facilitate lasting market linkages between value chain actors; and support an enabling environment that allows the private sector to thrive. The program places the Afghan private sector at the forefront of implementation and addresses key crosscutting issues of women's empowerment, agribusiness value chain facilitation, and alternative development in all facets of the program. Embodying USAID's vision for sustainable Afghan-led development, RADP-S lays the foundation for greater and more socially inclusive growth in the agricultural economy.

June 2015 Program Highlights

During the reporting period, RADP-S master trainers conducted wheat harvest and post-harvest demonstration trainings on all 78 demonstration farms for 5,567 farmers. Coinciding with the seasonal wheat harvest, farmers were taught to identify wheat maturity and proper methods for harvesting, cleaning, and storing wheat. High value crop (HVC) trainings focused on vineyard harvest and post-harvest techniques for the upcoming grape harvest in July. In total, 4,601 farmers learned how to identify grape maturity, harvest grapes, clean, sort, and grade grape varieties, and the proper temperature controls needed for storage.

RADP-S concluded grant activities with three wheat input supply companies in June. In total, the Ahmad Baryali Improved Seeds Company, Sahrai Loy Kandahar Improved Seed Company, and Sardar Zai Improved Seeds Company trained 571 farmers in the advantages of certified wheat seeds, wheat inputs, and wheat pest management solutions. In these trainings, the companies advertised the potential for increased productivity as a result of using their inputs, supplies, and equipment. The Dehrawood Chemical Providing Company also finalized grant activities and trained 212 farmers in controlling for powdery mildew in grapes and promoting their products and services. RADP-S will continue to monitor these companies to gauge potential increased sales as a result of promotional trainings.

In June, Purdue Improved Crop Storage (PICS) bag training was completed for 1,561 women in all four provinces. PICS bags are three layers and hermetically sealed, removing oxygen from the bag to kill any pests that may exist. Their use in wheat storage allows for a longer shelf-life for wheat grains, playing an important role in food security. PICS bags were introduced in trainings for women as well as on the demo farms.

RADP-S surveyed ten poultry and five dairy businesses in Kandahar. Survey questions asked business owners about their operating capacity, constraints, and areas for collaboration. Survey results will help inform RADP-S programming in the livestock value chain. RADP-S will follow up with these companies in an effort to identify sales opportunities and interventions.

SECTION II: WHEAT

Training in Wheat Topics

During the reporting period, RADP-S master trainers conducted wheat harvest and post-harvest trainings for 5,567 farmers in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul, and Uruzgan provinces. The demonstrations built off of classroom sessions in May which provided theoretical training on identifying wheat maturity, wheat drying and cleaning, and proper storage techniques. In June, farmers assisted in wheat harvesting on demo farms, utilized cost-effective equipment like wheat harvesters, and were introduced to storage techniques that reduce moisture and prevent pests. Farmers were taught that a storage structure with raised wooden pallets for wheat bags are most effective at protecting wheat grain from decay and mold damage as well as protecting the crop from birds, animals, and insects.



USAID/RADP-S
Wheat storage using PICS bags in Arghandab, Kandahar.

Once wheat harvesting concluded in Kandahar, Helmand, and Uruzgan provinces, the former wheat plots were ploughed and sulphur powder added to balance pH levels. Alfalfa seeds were sown as alfalfa creates a nitrogen rich soil that balances soil pH levels for the next growing season.

Wheat Input Supply Company Grantees

Ahmad Baryali Improved Seeds Company

The Ahmad Baryali Improved Seeds Company (ABISC) completed its grant activities during the reporting period. ABISC trained 40 farmers in June on certified wheat seeds and wheat cultivation. In total, ABISC has trained 192 farmers in Daman and Arghandab districts of Kandahar. RADP-S will work with ABISC to monitor the company's sales, with particular attention to sales during the winter wheat growing season.

Sahrai Loy Kandahar Improved Wheat Seed Company

During the reporting period, the Sahrai Loy Kandahar Improved Wheat Seed Company provided two days of classroom sessions and three days of demonstration training to 120 farmers. Sahrai Loy concluded trainings in June, training 180 farmers total in Dand district of Kandahar. Sahrai Loy selected 60 farmers to visit the company's processing plant. Farmers received a firsthand look at industrial machines used for wheat seed processing, cleaning, and mixing with fungicide agrochemicals to control for disease. The company demonstrated the use of their sealable wheat seed bags and farmers toured the warehouse they use for storage. These site visits allow farmers to gauge the quality of the company's inputs and provides the company with an opportunity to promote their inputs one-on-one.



USAID/RADP-S
Sahrai Loy trainees do group work on wheat seed production in Dand, Kandahar.

SISSCO

In June, SISSCO conducted training of trainers for three staff members and finalized promotional materials for use during training sessions. SISSCO trained 40 farmers in Arghandab district of Kandahar. SISSCO

training topics included information on the company's products and processing capabilities, seed preparation, characteristics of improved wheat seeds, land preparation methods, wheat sowing, and fertilizer application and weed control.

Sardar Zai Improved Seeds Company

The Sardar Zai Improved Seeds Company completed training for 199 farmers in Panjwei district of Kandahar. Trainings covered the wheat germination process, land preparation, and advantages of certified wheat seeds. The company completed its grant activities in June. RADP-S will monitor company sales to gauge the impact of these promotional trainings for the company in increasing its customer base.

SECTION III: HIGH VALUE CROPS

Farmer High Value Crop Trainings

During the reporting period, a total of 4,601 farmers attended high value crop (HVC) training on vineyard harvest and post-harvest management, orchard water management, and greenhouse water management. Vineyard harvest and post-harvest management topics focused on identifying grape maturity through grape sugar levels, berry size, and correct colors for red and black grapes. Master trainers highlighted that when harvesting, grapes should be supported by hand and cut from the vine using clean pruning shears. Post-harvest lessons focused on: mechanical and evaporative cooling methods, sizing, grading, packing and packaging materials, storage, and cold chain transportation. Farmers were also taught best practices for processing grapes for drying and for jams and jellies.

Dependent on soil make-up and precipitation levels, irrigation times and proper water usage for orchard and vegetable plants were introduced to move farmers away from traditional flood irrigation. Mulching techniques which retain soil moisture and assist in water conservation was also an important consideration. The pros and cons of drip, furrow, basin, and surface irrigation systems were discussed with farmers. Drip irrigation set up, most appropriate for greenhouses, was demonstrated on demo farms.



USAID/RADP-S

Greenhouse water management training in Nad-e-Ali, Helmand.

Vegetable Planting on Demo Farms and AMTEX

In June, the demonstration farms in all four provinces raised beds for planting tomatoes, bell peppers, and eggplants. Tomatoes, eggplants, and bell peppers were transferred from nursery seedling trays to raised beds. Farmers observed the transfer process and had not seen the use of seedling trays before. Seedling trays and nurseries allow farmers to grow vegetable seeds in a controlled environment that speeds up production, and reduces risks associated with growing in an open field.



USAID/RADP-S

Farm foreman grafts plants at AMTEX farm.

On the AMTEX farm, tomatoes, eggplants, and bell peppers were also transplanted from seedling trays to an open field to mimic demonstration farm activities. In this way, RADP-S technical specialists can monitor and recommend changes as necessary given similar growing conditions. Tomato plants on the AMTEX farm were struggling to grow in the harsh weather conditions. As a result, the AMTEX foreman grafted tomato

plants onto eggplant. This grafting technique will allow the tomato plant to become more disease resistant and adjust to hot weather conditions. The AMTEX farm has produced 38 kilograms of cucumbers on 40 square meters, 105 kilograms of onions from 30 square meters, and 17 kilogram of eggplant from 20 square meters of land. In addition, the AMTEX wheat field was ploughed and planted with mung beans and alfalfa to adjust the soil's nitrogen levels and act as fertilizer for the next growing season.

Dehrawood Chemical Providing Company Promotional Training for Grape Growers

In June, the Dehrawood Chemical Providing Company (DCPC) completed its grant activities. DCPC trained a total of 212 farmers in Arghandab, Dand, Daman, and Panjwei districts of Kandahar province. Farmers were provided two days of classroom sessions and two days of demonstration training. Farmers were introduced to DCPC's array of products for pest management and taught how to safely and correctly apply spray technology. Mechanical methods of pest control, including pruning and liming, were also introduced as ways to increase crop yield and reduce the occurrences of powdery mildew in grapes. RADP-S will monitor the results of DCPC's promotional training activities and their impact on company sales figures.



USAID/RADP-S
Dehrawood Chemical Providing Company demonstrates how to safely apply pest spray in Panjwei, Kandahar.

Zulmai Nasim Agriculture Company Promotional Trainings

The Zulmai Nasim Agriculture Company conducted trainings for 115 farmers in Dand and Panjwei districts of Kandahar on integrated pest management, pest and disease identification, biological and mechanical methods for powdery mildew and anthracnose in grapes, and the cultivation of grape varieties resistant to pest and disease. An additional 60 farmers will be trained in the next reporting period.

SECTION IV: LIVESTOCK

Farmer Extension Group Trainings



USAID/RADP-S
Farmer extension group training on large ruminants in Nahre Saraj, Helmand.

In June RADP-S key implementing partner Dutch Committee for Afghanistan (DCA) began its Large Ruminant Herd Health Package (LRHHP) training program for its farmer extension groups (FEGs) in all four provinces. A total of 908 members were trained, 444 women and 464 men, in two sessions on the introduction of the LRHHP program and the control of internal and external parasites for large ruminants as well as the economic benefits of raising cows. An Extension Agent was hired for Chora district in Uruzgan province and 4 previously inactive FEGs became operational in the month of June.

Livestock Health Services

Twenty-three RADP-S contracted VFUs vaccinated 20,816 animals, medicated 21,113 animals, and provided other health services to 578 animals in the month of June. Animals were vaccinated against common diseases such as anthrax, enterotoxaemia, hemorrhagic septicemia, foot and mouth disease (FMD), rabies, sheep pox, and New Castle disease. DCA monitored 16 contracted VFUs throughout the four provinces to verify financial records and health logs were properly accounted for.

Refresher Trainings for Paravets



USAID/RADP-S

Paravets visit a veterinary shop in Kandahar City during Pharmacology training.

The second refresher training course was conducted on the differential diagnosis of highly contagious and zoonotic diseases. The training emphasized the symptoms of common zoonotic diseases and immediate and long term treatment options. Sixteen trainees attended along with DAIL staff from Kandahar and Uruzgan provinces. Trainees demonstrated a 56 percent understanding of diagnostic knowledge before the training, and an average of 99 percent understanding by the end of the training.

DCA conducted two five-day refresher training courses in its Kandahar Training Center for VFU staff. The first training focused on pharmacology and how to calculate dosage and administer drugs based on animal and animal weight. Sixteen trainees from all four provinces attended along with 3 Directorate of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (DAIL) staff members from Kandahar, Zaul, and Uruzgan. Trainees demonstrated an understanding of pharmacology topics at 45 percent before the training and knowledge gains were increased to 94 percent from post-test results.

Charikar Veterinary Training and Support Center

The second round of RADP-S supported paravet students at the Charikar Veterinary Training and Support Center (VTSC) ended their coursework and completed final evaluations in June. Seventeen of the 18 students successfully passed their examinations. The graduation ceremony will take place in early July. Graduates will receive their veterinary field unit (VFU) start-up kits, motorbikes, and other equipment in August to begin operating new VFUs.

First Round Paravet Graduates Start Up New VFUs

Nineteen paravets from the first round of graduates in December 2014 will open 19 VFUs throughout the four provinces. Seven VFUs will be established in Panjwei, Zheri, and Daman districts of Kandahar province; six VFUs will be established in Nad-e-Ali, Nawa, and Nahre-Saraj districts of Helmand province; five VFUs will be established in Tirin Kot, Chora, and Dehrawood districts of Uruzgan province; and one VFU established in Shah Joy district of Zabul. The Shah Joy VFU is the first ever in the district, and will address a huge gap in animal health for its community members. RADP-S supported VFUs number 42 total, with 23 previously contracted VFUs and 19 new VFUs.



USAID/RADP-S

Paravet receives a motorbike to support the delivery of animal health services.

Livestock Company Grantees

Ahmad Shahi Agriculture Chicken Farm

The Ahmad Shahi Agriculture Chicken Farm signed a grant agreement with RADP-S in May. The company will develop a 15 day training course for its 52 contract farmers in poultry raising. Site visits to poultry farm operations and chicken feed and equipment vendors will be planned for 26 trainees. During the reporting period, a four and half month work plan was completed. Activities are set to begin after the month of Ramadan.

Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughter House

The Afghan Sadaqat Chicken Slaughter House will train its contract farmers on poultry farm design and chicken care as well as examine its chicken packaging system and utilize more appealing packaging materials to promote its products. RADP-S conducted a baseline survey of the company in June. Training curriculum development and training will begin in the next reporting period.

Mostamand Etihad Pvt Ltd

In June, Mostamand Etihad Pvt Ltd developed a three month work plan and conducted TOT for two staff members and three veterinary field unit employees. A training was provided for 25 farmers in Dand district of Kandahar on identifying good feed, the importance of balanced rations, how to prepare feed blocks, preparing urea treatments, and showing the differences in milk and meat from correctly fed animals. Mostamand Etihad Pvt Ltd intends to train 250 farmers by the end of the grant activity.

Sayede Sadat Group

The Sayede Sadat Group developed a work plan, created and printed promotional materials, and finalized TOT and farming training curriculum during the reporting period. In July, the Sayede Sadat Group will train chicken farmers in best practices for preparing chicken feed and options for vaccinations and treatment in Dand, Daman, Arghandab, Zheri, and Panjwei districts of Kandahar province.

SECTION V: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT

Submission of Revised Public Private Partnership Policy

Based on recommendations made by the MAIL Minister and the Director General of Plan, Policy and Programs Coordination, the Enabling Environment Unit (EEU) revised the Public Private Partnership (PPP) Policy. RADP-S further defined PPP models proposed for MAIL, including the Build-Own-Operation model, Lease model, Concessions model, and Operations and Management contracts. In addition, RADP-S clarified priority items in the PPP scope to include private sector investment capital in the agriculture sector. The PPP procurement policy section was streamlined from three components into one, providing guidance on the overall procurement process, unsolicited bids, and procurement termination.

Revision of the National Livestock Policy

During the month of June, the EEU coordinated three rounds of policy amendments with senior-level MAIL staff and representatives from other donor projects supporting MAIL. RADP-S reviewed the policy amendments with the Deputy Minister of MAIL and the livestock policy was revised based on his recommendations. The recommended changes included a sub-section on "Animal Disease Control and Veterinary Services," which aims to improve veterinary services and control animal diseases. The provisions of the new sub-section focus on private sector investment in veterinary-related infrastructures, the importation of veterinary drugs not produced in Afghanistan, strategies for enhancing disease control measures, and clear delineation of private and public sector responsibilities in animal health services.

The pisciculture policy section was modified to capitalize on the country's strength in the fisheries industry. Measures to promote the production of local trout breeds, provide diagnostic services for fish diseases, adopt a Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP) approach to reduce contamination, and provide fish farms with equipment to monitor water quality were added to the revised livestock policy. Afghanistan's low labor costs, existing distribution networks, and large local markets with a demand for fish encourages the growth of this sector. The policy also takes into consideration a local approach to providing fish farming extension services and ensuring quality inputs to support fish production and marketing. Production policies were elaborated to include provisions for the quality of meat production, in addition to milk production from goats, sheep, and cattle. Measures to improve meat production include

the establishment of meat processors, resurrecting the government body regulating the meat industry, regulating meat imports and exports, and providing technical services to meat producers. All policy amendments will undergo another round of review during the next reporting period.

SECTION VI: CREATING MARKET LINKAGES

Survey of Kandahar Dairy and Poultry Businesses

During the month of June, the Value Chain Unit (VCU) finalized a survey of ten poultry businesses in Kandahar. Business owners were asked to provide information on the size of their business, number of employees, operating challenges, and opportunities for collaboration. These businesses deliver chicken products to the local market, and provide chicken farm inputs, feed, and medicines. In addition, five dairy businesses were surveyed to create a business profile of their operating capacity and areas for potential RADP-S intervention. The Kandahar-based dairy businesses provide milk, butter, and cheese for local markets. These surveys will be used to inform RADP-S activities, maintain relationships with local businesses, and identify sales opportunities for businesses in the livestock value chain.



USAID/RADP-S
RADP-S connects businesses in Kandahar to Kabul.

Connecting Businesses for Potential Partnerships

RADP-S facilitated a Business to Business (B2B) meeting between Amini Sadri Ltd (ASL) and the Kandahar Fresh Fruit Association (KFFA). The meeting connected two major businesses from Kandahar City and Kabul City. KFFA is seeking quality packing materials to export its fruit products. Amini Sadri Ltd has the capacity to provide plastic packaging materials for pomegranates, grapes, apricots, and other fruits. As a result of this discussion, ASL will send KFFA product samples. RADP-S will closely follow the progression of this business to business interaction. By supporting linkages between major actors in the high value crop value chain, RADP-S anticipates growth opportunities for businesses in the south.

SECTION VII: CROSS-CUTTING THEMES

Gender

Training on PICS Bags

During the reporting period, RADP-S rolled out Hermetic Storage PICS bags trainings for women beneficiaries in all four targeted provinces. The trainings demonstrated the benefits and design of PICS bags and reinforced storage methods that reduce grain loss due to moisture or pests. PICS storage bags were introduced to women in one-day training and each participant received two sample bags to utilize and assess the benefits for themselves. The bags store up to 50 kilograms of grains per bag. A total 1,561 women were trained in coordination with RADP-S key implementing partners and Departments of Women's Affairs.



USAID/RADP-S
PICS Bag Training in Nad-e-Ali, Helmand.

Progress on the DOWA Demonstration Farm

A Request for Application (RFA) was released in May for the financial management and operational support of the Department of Women's Affairs (DOWA) Farm in Kandahar City. During the reporting period, applications underwent technical review, with the selection and vetting process to begin in the next

reporting period. The construction company proposed to work on the demo farm is undergoing USAID vetting.

Basic Nutrition Training Concludes

Basic nutrition training concluded in June with the completion of one session in Uruzgan province which had been re-scheduled due to security concerns. In total, 1,589 women have been trained in nutritional health and food safety. RADP-S will assess the impacts of these trainings and build off its success for future nutrition activities.

Communications and Outreach

Live Call-In Radio Broadcasts and Public Short Announcements



USAID/RADP-S

RADP-S Gender Specialist advises on grape production during the “Better Cultivation, Better Livestock” radio show.

During the reporting period, RADP-S radio program “Better Cultivation, Better Livestock” aired in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces. During the month of June, technical experts covered the following topics: orchard water management, vineyard water management, livestock mastitis, and vineyard post-harvest management. A total of 479 calls were received by the radio stations and 129 were broadcasted.

In the month of June, RADP-S devoted 10 minutes of its one hour program to focus on women’s participation in agriculture. Gender specialists from Kandahar and Helmand provinces participated in the grape harvest maturity and management program. They provided valuable

information on grape nutrition and hygienic considerations during grape jam and vinegar production. Best practices and various methodologies for drying raisins were also discussed. Due to security concerns gender specialists were unable to participate in Uruzgan and Zabul radio programs. However, the gender-related materials were read by male HVC specialists and questions answered on air.

Public Short Announcements (PSAs) aired during the month of June covered: grape harvest maturity, livestock rabies disease, vineyard mulching, vineyard IPM and weed control, stone fruit harvest and precooling, livestock hemorrhagic septicemia disease, nitrogen deficiency in home gardens, and grape harvest management. These one-minute PSA messages aired during the harvesting season provide farmers with information on reducing post-harvest loss and also address seasonal diseases for livestock.

Mobile Theatre Performances

During the month of June seven mobile theatre performances were conducted in Kandahar and Helmand provinces. Mobile theatre performances in Uruzgan and Zabul are set to occur in July, after Ramadan. An estimated 383 spectators enjoyed a show on vineyard harvest and post-harvest management. The story focuses on a farmer who is concerned about pests infiltrating this vineyard and how to take care of his grapes after harvesting. One of his fellow farmers suggests that he contact an agricultural specialist who will be visiting their village. The farmer finally contacts the agricultural specialists after a series of comedic incidences and learns about IPM, how and when to



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Mobile theatre performance in Arghandab, Kandahar.

pick grapes, cooling and transferring them for storage, and jelly making tips.

Listening Circles

In month of June, 17 listening circles were conducted in all four targeted provinces for 251 farmers. The participants listened to radio broadcasts on wheat plant nutrition, orchard nutrition, and livestock anthrax disease and were able to ask KIP specialists questions in a small group setting. These sessions accounted for missed sessions in April during the start-up of the activity. Listening circles will not be conducted in July due to Ramadan, but will continue in August.

Monitoring and Evaluation

During the month of June, the M&E team monitored 59 farmer trainings in Kandahar, Helmand, Uruzgan, and Zabul provinces. Field monitors assessed the quality of the trainings and requested feedback from participants on their training experience. During site visits, a new pre- and post-test methodology was piloted. New pre- and post-tests have been shortened and modified to best capture knowledge gains. Tests are now provided to a proportion of participants rather than all participants. The M&E team will evaluate the outcomes of this new system and train KIPs in utilizing the new tests. Insecurity prevents M&E staff from traveling to seven districts of Uruzgan, Zabul, and Helmand provinces.

SECTION VIII: PARTNER & STAKEHOLDER COLLABORATION

Other USAID funded projects

Kabul

In collaboration with the Afghanistan Trade and Revenue (ATAR) project and the Regional Agricultural Development Program-West (RADP-W), RADP-S conducted a five-day Supply Chain Management Training of Trainers workshop and Association Management and Development Training for RADP-S and RADP-W technical staff. RADP-S and ATAR trainers led sessions that covered modern supply chain management, supply chain strategies, and international best practices for supply chain management. The objective of these trainings was to develop the capacities of RADP staff in the value chain facilitation model and for RADP technical staff to extend these trainings to traders and exporters in specific value chains.



USAID/RADP-S

RADP staff complete supply chain trainings.

Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Kabul

During the reporting period, RADP-S staff met with the Minister of MAIL along with other USAID agriculture projects to provide project updates and areas for collaboration aligned with MAIL's "100 Day Plan." RADP-S initiatives in animal husbandry, PPP policy recommendations, and water management trainings were all identified as complementary to MAIL priorities.

Kandahar

ADA's Provincial Director conducted a meeting with Arghandab's District Governor and shared RADP-S project activities for the month of June. The District Governor professed his support for the training activities and would encourage DAIL officers to attend. DCA met with the DAIL Livestock and Veterinary Manager to discuss the participation of DAIL veterinary staff in refresher training courses and support for the new paravets. DAIL expressed appreciation for the invitations and will continue to send staff to the refresher training courses.

Helmand

RADP-S key implementing partner CHA held a meeting with the Helmand DAIL Director and shared the status of demo farm activities in June. The DAIL Director approved the training plan and topics for the upcoming month and promised his cooperation for ensuring RADP-S activities.

Uruzgan

On June 3, ADA and DCA attended a non-governmental organization (NGO) coordination meeting held with the DAIL office. All participants discussed upcoming activities and tentative 2016 work plans. ADA provided a briefing on ongoing activities. In addition, DCA held a meeting with the DAIL Husbandry Department to coordinate the distribution of paravet kits to new paravets.

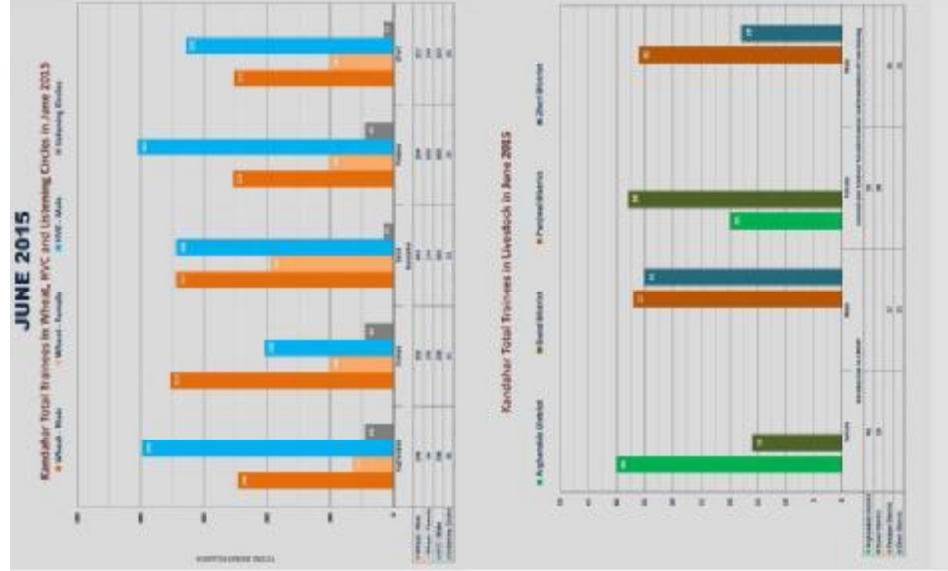
Zabul

ADA met with the DAIL Director to discuss DAIL visits to the Qalat demo farms. ADA coordinated future meetings with DAIL and provided an update on June training activities. DCA held a meeting with the District Governor of Shah Joy district and briefed him on DCA activities, introduced DCA extension workers, and discussed future implementation plans for RADP-S activities.

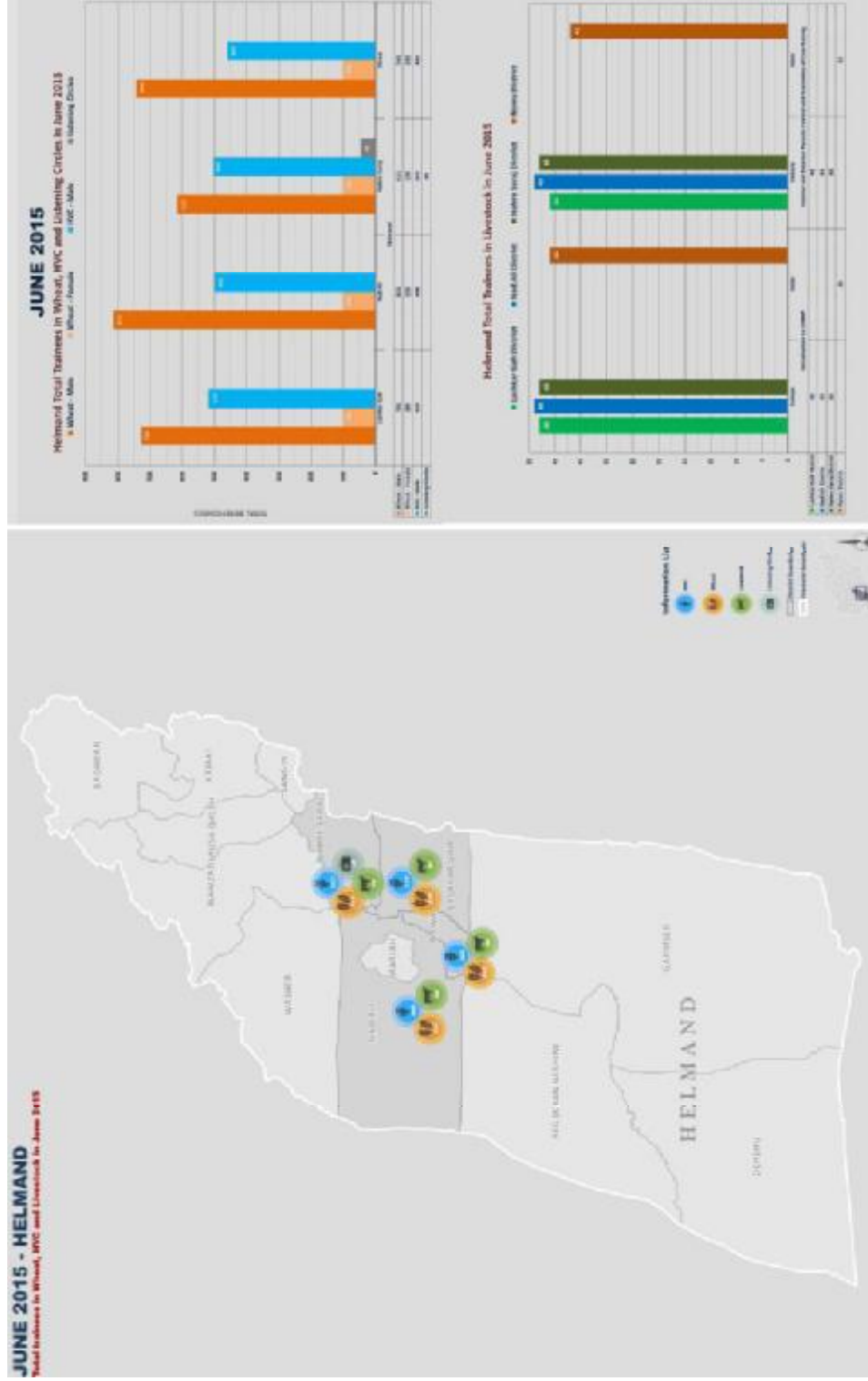
SECTION IX: IMPLEMENTATION CHALLENGES

In June, several farmer training, nutrition trainings, and listening circles in Uruzgan province were re-scheduled due to insecurity along main roads, discouraging trainees from travel to the demo farms. Wheat and HVC pests on the demo farm plots have been cited as an area of concern. RADP-S is identifying vendors that will be able to assist in providing pest control sprays for lead farmers. The increasingly hot weather in the South has also discouraged farmers from attending demonstration trainings outdoors and classroom sessions which, depending on the location, may also be held outdoors. In mid-June, the month of Ramadan began, with training activities re-scheduled to accommodate the religious holiday.

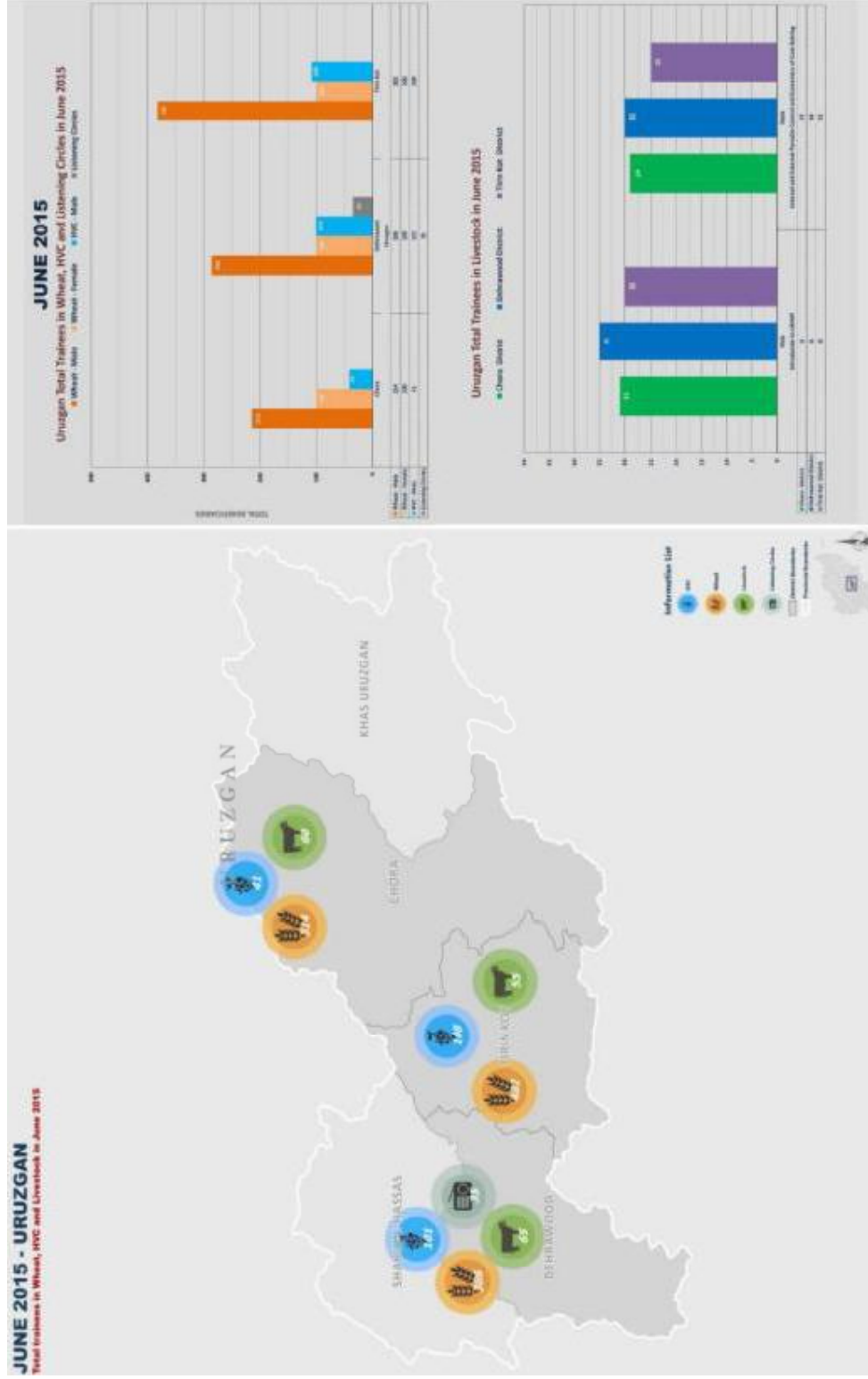
ANNEX I: KANDAHAR PROVINCE TRAINING FIGURES



JUNE 2015 - HELMAND
 Wanted to advance the Wilson, RNC and Livestock for June 2015



ANNEX III: URUZGAN PROVINCE TRAINING FIGURES



ANNEX IV: ZABUL PROVINCE TRAINING FIGURES

